

Speaking Points:

- On the afternoon of **January 29th, (Saturday)** a convoy of semi trucks and passenger vehicles travelled to the Coutts border via Hwy 4 to protest cross border vaccination health orders and COVID 19 mandates;
- This was in conjunction with the Freedom Convoys that travelled to Ottawa and similar to convoy protests and disruptions that were held in eleven other areas of our Province;
- We had our Division Emergency Operations Centre activated for all the convoys and protests across the Province;
- We estimate that approximately 1000 vehicles stretched over 46 km of roadway;
- Almost immediately after arriving at Coutts, we deployed to the area and immediately engaged with the protesters more specifically the organizers of the event;
- The organizers indicated they planned to circle the area but maintain one lane of open traffic and that no blockades would be created.
- What further resulted was the convoy positioned themselves in both southbound and northbound lanes and shortly thereafter it became apparent that this was not going to be a lawful protest but a complete blockage of highway access to the International border;
- The organizers began to work with the RCMP in an attempt to gain compliance to move the vehicles off the highway;
- Little success was gained as the organizers lost any control they may have had over the protest and a new group assumed control;
- The RCMP deployed our highly skilled and trained Conflict Consultative Management Teams (CCMG) to engage with the protesters and more specifically the new leaders of this group.
- Little traction was gained through these efforts as the new leaders were not interested in engaging with the police;
- At this time we also began our resource planning and deployment efforts;
- We began working with CBSA and the US Border Patrol; other available border crossings as well truck traffic on the US side of the border;

→ 30th
The following morning (**Sunday**) we continued our efforts with the objectives of attempting to gain compliance to disband the protest in a peaceful and non-violent and have the highways opened up to facilitate traffic to and from Canada and the US;

We continued our resource deployment efforts through the day bringing in necessary resources from across the province and planning our strategic approach to this unique situation; planning a disruption and dismantling of the blockade; included planning and building arrest teams, evidence or investigative teams, processing teams, transport teams, perimeter security and checkpoint teams, and so on;

We also had to ensure that no additional protestors attended to reinforce the blockade;

We continued our efforts with our CCMG teams and in the early evening, we were able to get 30 trucks out of the area of the blockade and lead them through so backroads out to Hwy 4. These were drivers that didn't want to be part of the blockade.

The protestors were not receptive to our direction for compliance and engagement at that time was very minimal;

The following day (**Monday**) our objectives remained the same but with most resources in place including tow trucks we were ready to execute an enforcement based approach when the leaders of the protest engaged and expressed a willingness to negotiate an opening of both a north and southbound lane to facilitate through traffic;

This was of interest to us and made sense as it could immediately open traffic flows but also potentially minimize days of removing 200 plus semis from the roadway;

Those discussions and that state of readiness continued into early evening when the protestors withdrew; Given the now state of darkness, it was then decided that our best and safest approach on enforcement was the following morning;

Tuesday (today)

We had assurances from the tow companies that they were available and would assist however early this morning they cancelled as did others . Explored all available options. Let John explain where we are at currently and share some of the additional

Transport & Hwy team,

- management order,
- border closures
- CBSA capacity.

*intention of government
- from community
- who are we dealing with?*